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Agenda item 80

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Martin RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 30th, 31st, 41st and 57th meetings, on 4 and 13 November and 10 December 1991. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/46/SR.30, 31, 41 and 57). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 9th meetings, from 1 to 4 October 1991 (see A/C.2/46/SR.2-9).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 22 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Guadalajara Declaration issued at the conclusion of the first Ibero-American Summit, on 19 July 1991 (A/46/317-S/22823);

(b) Letter dated 5 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final communiqué of the twenty-second South Pacific Forum, held at Palikir, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, on 29 and 30 July 1991 (A/46/344);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries (A/46/454);

(d) Letter dated 27 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/501/Rev.1);

(e) Letter dated 1 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Group of 77 adopted on 30 September on the occasion of their fifteenth annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York (A/46/520);

(f) Letter dated 23 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the resolutions adopted by the 86th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Santiago, Chile, from 7 to 12 October 1991 (A/46/598-S/23166).

4. At the 30th meeting, on 4 November, an introductory statement was made by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/46/L.40 AND L.106

5. At the 41st meeting, on 13 November, the representative of Ghana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries" (A/C.2/46/L.40), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

"Reaffirming also its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989 and 45/213 of 21 December 1990,

"Noting that the eradication of poverty in developing countries has become a top priority development objective of the international community for the 1990s,

"Concerned that the adverse international economic environment continues to hinder the growth and development of developing countries, thus reducing their capacity to undertake social and economic programmes for the eradication of poverty,

"Noting that efforts so far made nationally and internationally to eradicate poverty have not had a significant impact on the problem of increasing poverty,

"Aware that achieving the objective of eradicating poverty requires more concerted action at all levels,

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries; 1/

"2. Reiterates that a supportive international economic environment is crucial to the success of efforts of developing countries to deal with the eradication of poverty;

"3. Reiterates also its request to the international community to adopt specific and effective measures designed to increase concessional financial flows to developing countries, including attainment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance, in order to strengthen the efforts of those countries to eradicate poverty;

"4. Calls upon the international community to implement technical cooperation programmes, including the transfer of new and relevant technologies on concessional and preferential terms, in order to improve substantially the food situation, health and education and meet other basic needs of the populations of developing countries;

"5. Encourages the international community, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to give financial and technical support to the programmes of developing countries with a view to strengthening endogenous technical capacities and generating opportunities for production and full employment;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the progress made in the coordinating actions undertaken, in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations and other multilateral bodies, to formulate improved and enhanced action-oriented technical cooperation programmes for the eradication of poverty in developing countries, within the framework of the United Nations system, in accordance with the policies, priorities and strategies of those countries;

"7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session an item entitled 'International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries'."

1/ A/46/454.

6. At its 57th meeting, on 10 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.106), submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Bozorgmehr Ziaran (Iran, Islamic Republic of) on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.40.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.106 without a vote (see para. 10).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.106, draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.40 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Norway made a statement.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming also its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989 and 45/213 of 21 December 1990,

Noting that the eradication of poverty in developing countries has become a top-priority development objective for the 1990s,

Stressing that effective national policies supported by a favourable international economic environment can promote growth and development in developing countries, thus increasing their capacity to undertake social and economic programmes to eradicate poverty,

Noting that efforts made so far nationally and internationally to eradicate poverty have not had a significant impact on the problem of increasing poverty,

Aware that achieving the objective of eradicating poverty requires more concerted action at all levels,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries; 2/

2. Stresses the importance of domestic policies, including effective budgetary policies, to mobilize and allocate domestic resources for the eradication of poverty, through, inter alia, the implementation of food, health, education, housing and population programmes;

3. Reiterates that a supportive international economic environment is crucial to the success of efforts of developing countries to deal with the eradication of poverty;

4. Reiterates also its request to the international community to adopt specific and effective measures designed to increase financial flows to developing countries, including attainment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance, as well as of the targets for the least developed countries adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 3/ in order to strengthen the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty;

5. Calls upon the international community to implement technical cooperation programmes in order to improve the situation in the areas of food, health, education, population and housing and meet other basic needs of the populations of developing countries, in particular the poorest groups among them, and, in this context, reaffirms that, with respect to the transfer of technology on concessional and preferential terms, in particular to developing countries, effective modalities should be examined with a view to implementing and enhancing that transfer as much as possible;

6. Encourages the international community, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to support the programmes of developing countries, including human resources development programmes, in order to strengthen endogenous technical capacities and generate opportunities for production and employment;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the progress made in coordinating actions, in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations and other multilateral bodies, to formulate improved and enhanced action-oriented technical cooperation programmes for the eradication of poverty in developing countries, within the framework of the United Nations system, in accordance with the policies, priorities and strategies of those countries;

2/ A/46/454.

3/ See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session an item entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries".

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EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Martin RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "External debt crisis and development" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 22nd to 25th, 40th and 58th meetings, on 29 and 30 October, 12 November and 11 December 1991. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/46/SR.22-25, 40 and 58). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 9th meetings, from 1 to 4 October 1991 (see A/C.2/46/SR.2-9).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 14 June 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Communiqué of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Caribbean Community, which took place in Barbados on 13 and 14 May 1991 (A/46/264);

(b) Letter dated 22 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Guadalajara Declaration issued at the conclusion of the first Ibero-American Summit, on 19 July 1991 (A/46/317-S/22823);

(c) Letter dated 22 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the joint communiqué of the twenty-fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, issued at Kuala Lumpur on 20 July 1991 (A/46/323-S/22836);

(d) Letter dated 1 August 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General forwarding a copy of the Final Communiqué of the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community concluded at Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, on 4 July 1991 (A/46/336);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the recent evolution of the international debt strategy (A/46/415);

(f) Letter dated 19 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the texts of the documents adopted by the twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Istanbul from 4 to 8 August 1991 (A/46/486-S/23055);

(g) Letter dated 1 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Group of 77 adopted on 30 September 1991 on the occasion of their fifteenth annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York (A/46/520);

(h) Letter dated 23 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the resolutions adopted by the 86th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Santiago, Chile, from 7 to 12 October 1991 (A/46/598-S/23166);

(i) Letter dated 8 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Commonwealth Group of Experts entitled "Change for the better: global change and economic development", endorsed by the Meeting of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth at Harare, 16-22 October 1991 (A/C.2/46/12 and Add.1);

(j) Note by the Secretariat on the establishment of an advisory commission on debt and development (A/C.2/46/L.6).

4. At the 22nd meeting, on 29 October, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/46/SR.22).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/46/L.38 and L.119

5. At the 40th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Ghana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.38), entitled "International debt crisis and development: enhanced international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problems of developing countries", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 41/202 of 8 December 1986, 42/198 of 11 December 1987, 43/198 of 20 December 1988, 44/205 of 22 December 1989 and 45/214 of 21 December 1990,

"Reaffirming also the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

"Taking note of Trade and Development Board resolution 396 (XXXVIII) of 4 October 1991, 1/

"Concerned that the debt problem continues to constitute one of the most serious constraints to the economic growth and development of the developing countries,

"Noting the proposals made by developing countries and regional organizations, including the Organization of African Unity and the Latin American Economic System,

"Noting that while the principle of debt and debt-service reduction has gained acceptance, only a few debtor countries have actually obtained the reductions necessary for their development and growth,

"Welcoming the proposals calling for the reduction and/or cancellation of official bilateral debt owed by least developed countries and other low-income countries in support of their own adjustment efforts in stabilizing their economies,

"Noting the substantive debt reduction agreed by the Paris Club in favour of two middle-income countries and recognizing the need to extend similar debt reduction to low-income and other middle-income countries,

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1/ A/46/15 (vol. II), chap. II, sect. A.

"Noting also the efforts undertaken by developing countries in formulating and implementing their own economic stabilization and structural adjustment programmes, despite their debt burden, in order to revitalize their economy and lay a firm foundation for the achievement of growth according to national development strategies,

"Noting further the need for a social safety net for vulnerable groups most adversely affected by the implementation of economic reform programmes in the debtor countries, in order to ensure social and political stability,

"Considering that recent initiatives and measures taken with a view to contributing to the solution of the problem of debt and debt service are restricted in scope and should be broadened to cover all indebted countries and all categories of debt,

"Welcoming the new and additional initiatives for debt relief measures reached at the Summit of the seven major industrialized nations, held in London in July 1991, 2/ which aimed at going well beyond the Toronto terms,

"Encouraging innovative and bold measures towards a sustained solution to the debt problem, such as those taken under the Netherlands initiative and the Trinidad and Tobago terms, as well as recommendations contained in the report of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General on debt, 3/

"Noting the various proposals aimed at reducing the commercial debt of developing countries through the use of substantial debt discounts, including proposals on the establishment of an international debt facility,

"Stressing the need for a definite time-frame for the solution of the external debt problem of developing countries and, consequently, for the flow of adequate development resources to those countries,

"Noting the initial implementation of the accumulation of rights approach and its different variants addressing the problem of arrears, with regard to multilateral debt,

"Recognizing that increased cooperation between the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other multilateral financial institutions is welcome but should not lead to cross-conditionality,

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2/ See A/46/309-S/22807, annex I.

3/ A/45/380 and Corr.1, annex.

"Emphasizing the need to address the debt problem of developing countries with negative net transfer of resources to the multilateral financial institutions,

"Recognizing the urgent need for a balanced and successful outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations in order to enhance, inter alia, the attainment of a durable solution to the debt problem,

"Recognizing also the need for intensified efforts by the international community to resolve the debt crisis and to forestall its proliferation and prevent its aggravation,

"1. Calls upon Member States and multilateral financial institutions to work towards an early, growth- and development-oriented solution to the external debt problem, and, in this connection, calls upon them to intensify their efforts for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/214;

"2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his continued efforts towards achieving a durable solution to the debt problem of the developing countries, and, in that regard, stresses the need for the continuation of his efforts;

"3. Recognizes that payment capacities of debtor countries have continuously been diminished as a result, inter alia, of the unfavourable economic environment, deteriorating terms of trade, declining commodity prices, restricted market access and trade distorting practices;

"4. Recognizes also that reduction of debt and debt-service burdens has to be supported by the provision of substantial new external financial resources needed by the developing debtor countries for the attainment of economic growth and development;

"5. Stresses the urgent need for the cancellation or reduction of debt and debt service related to official development assistance loans, as well as other official bilateral debt and debt service;

"6. Stresses also the need for more urgent action on commercial and official debt owed by all categories of debtor developing countries through improved access and expanded use of existing facilities and arrangements, as well as through other innovative schemes;

"7. Encourages the continued consideration and wider application of innovative measures such as debt swaps for the protection of nature and for equity for development projects as a contribution towards addressing the external debt problems of developing countries;

"8. Urges creditor countries, the Bretton Woods institutions and private banks to extend appropriate support, including substantial new financing and/or debt reduction, to low-income countries with substantial debt burdens that continue to service their debt and meet their international obligations at great cost;

"9. Calls for additional measures to address all other types of debt, including that owed to the multilateral institutions;

"10. Urges the multilateral financial institutions and creditor countries to extend adequate concessional financial assistance to support implementation of the reform programmes of debtor countries to enable those countries to extricate themselves from the debt overhang and to achieve economic growth and development;

"11. Calls upon the creditor countries and multilateral financial institutions to assist indebted countries in enhancing their social safety net programmes by mobilizing international financial resources on concessional terms;

"12. Stresses that any international debt strategy to be followed has to be agreed upon by both the creditor and the debtor countries;

"13. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

6. At its 58th meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.119), submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Bozorgmehr Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.38.

7. In introducing the draft resolution, the Vice-Chairman proposed the following revisions:

(a) In operative paragraph 5, replace the words "including improved" by the words "as regards, inter alia,", and insert the word "improved" before the words "market access";

(b) Replace operative paragraph 12, which read:

"12. Recognizes the need for the multilateral financial institutions, within their prerogatives, to continue to explore effective measures to deal with debt owed by developing countries to these institutions;"

by the following:

"12. Urges the multilateral financial institutions to continue to provide support for debt and debt-service reduction packages with the necessary flexibility under their established guidelines, and urges that

serious attention be given to continuing to work towards a growth-oriented solution of the problems of developing countries with serious debt-servicing problems, including those whose debt is mainly to official creditors, or to multilateral financial institutions;".

8. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

9. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.119, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 16).

11. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.119, draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.38 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

12. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the recent evolution of the international debt strategy (A/46/415) (see para. 17, draft decision II).

B. Draft decision contained in document A/C.2/46/L.6

13. By its decision 45/447 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, decided to defer until its forty-sixth session consideration of the draft decision entitled "Establishment of an advisory commission on debt and development" (see A/C.2/46/L.6).

14. At the 58th meeting, on 11 December, following a statement by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Bozorgmehr Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), and on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should defer consideration of the draft decision contained in document A/C.2/46/L.6 until its forty-seventh session (see para. 17, draft decision I).

15. After the adoption of the Chairman's proposal, the representative of the Philippines made a statement.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

16. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International debt crisis and development: enhanced international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problems of developing countries

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 41/202 of 8 December 1986, 42/198 of 11 December 1987, 43/198 of 20 December 1988, 44/205 of 22 December 1989 and 45/214 of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming also the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990 and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 4/

Taking note of Trade and Development Board resolution 396 (XXXVIII) of 4 October 1991, 5/

Welcoming the progress made in the context of recent developments in the evolving international debt strategy, which include debt and debt-service reduction as central elements,

Welcoming also recent actions taken by the international community to reduce or cancel the official bilateral debt owed by least developed countries and other low-income countries, in support of their own adjustment efforts to stabilize their economies,

Stressing the need to agree to proceed rapidly towards the implementation of recent initiatives and measures to reduce the stock of external debt and debt servicing and to provide debt relief,

Noting with appreciation the continued efforts to formulate and implement innovative and bold proposals and initiatives to address the debt problems, such as those taken under the Toronto terms, the Trinidad and Tobago terms, the Netherlands initiative, the French initiative, the Houston terms and the Enterprise for the Americas initiative,

Noting also with appreciation the recommendations contained in the report of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General on debt, 6/

4/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

5/ See A/46/15 (vol. II), chap. II, sect. A.

6/ A/45/380 and Corr.1, annex.

Noting the proposals made by developing countries and regional organizations, including the Organization of African Unity and the Latin American Economic System,

Reiterating the need for an early and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries and for forestalling their proliferation,

Stressing the need, in addition to debt relief measures that include debt and debt-service reduction, for new financial flows to debtor developing countries,

Noting with interest the initial implementation of the rights accumulation approach, addressing the problem of arrears with regard to multilateral debt,

Welcoming the increased cooperation among the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other multilateral financial institutions and recognizing the need to avoid cross-conditionality,

Emphasizing the importance for debtor developing countries to continue to pursue and intensify their efforts in their stabilization and structural adjustment programmes,

Expressing its concern that, in many developing countries, the burden of debt and debt service constitutes one of the major obstacles to the acceleration of growth and development and eradication of poverty, despite the often strenuous stabilization and structural adjustment programmes of these countries,

1. Urges Member States and multilateral financial institutions, within their prerogatives, to work towards an early, growth- and development-oriented solution to the external debt problems, and, in this connection, urges them to intensify their efforts for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/214;

2. Takes note with interest of the measures already taken by the international community and agrees that there is a need for continuing efforts, through the evolving international debt strategy in both the short and long term, to achieve an early and durable solution to the external debt problems;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his continuing efforts to promote understanding and to improve the relationship among debtor and creditor countries and multilateral financial institutions with a view to contributing towards a durable solution to the external debt problems of developing countries;

4. Emphasizes the importance for debtor developing countries to continue to pursue and intensify their efforts in their stabilization and structural adjustment programmes to raise savings and investment, reduce inflation and improve efficiency, taking into account their individual

characteristics and the vulnerability of the poorer strata of their populations;

5. Recognizes the need of the debtor developing countries for a supportive international economic environment, as regards, inter alia, terms of trade, commodity prices, improved market access and trade practices, and, in this connection, stresses the urgent need for a balanced and successful outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which would result in the liberalization and expansion of world trade to the benefit of all countries, in particular the developing countries;

6. Stresses the need, in addition to debt-relief measures that include debt and debt-service reduction, for new financial flows to debtor developing countries, and urges the creditor countries and the multilateral financial institutions to continue to extend concessional financial assistance, as appropriate, in order to support the implementation by the developing countries of their stabilization and structural adjustment programmes so as to enable them to extricate themselves from the debt overhang and to assist them in achieving economic growth and development;

7. Urges creditor countries, private banks and, within their prerogatives, multilateral financial institutions to consider the extension of appropriate new financial support to developing countries, in particular the low-income countries with substantial debt burdens that continue to service the debt and meet their international obligations at great cost;

8. Stresses the urgent need for additional debt relief measures, including further cancellation or reduction of debt and debt service related to official development assistance, as well as other official bilateral debt and debt service, in particular that of low-income countries, and welcomes, in this regard, the call by the Summit of the seven major industrialized nations for additional debt relief measures in favour of the poorest, most indebted countries that go well beyond the Toronto terms;

9. Also stresses the need for more urgent action with regard to the commercial debt owed by developing countries through increased efforts and improved access to and expanded use of existing facilities and arrangements, and encourages the continued consideration and, where appropriate, wider application of innovative measures, such as debt-for-equity swaps, debt swaps for the protection of nature and debt-for-development swaps, as contributions towards addressing the external debt problems of all indebted developing countries concerned;

10. Takes note of the substantial debt relief and debt reduction agreed by the Paris Club in favour of two middle-income countries;

11. Stresses the need for the continued examination, in the relevant forum, of appropriate debt-relief measures in favour of indebted low-income and lower-middle-income countries;

12. Urges the multilateral financial institutions to continue to provide support for debt and debt-service reduction packages with the necessary flexibility under their established guidelines, and urges that serious attention be given to continuing to work towards a growth-oriented solution of problems of developing countries with serious debt-servicing problems, including those whose debt is mainly to official creditors, or to multilateral financial institutions;

13. Recognizes the urgent need to continue to provide a social safety net to vulnerable groups most adversely affected by the implementation of economic reform programmes in the debtor countries, in particular low-income groups, in order to ensure social and political stability;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

17. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly, the adoption of the following draft decision:

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DRAFT DECISION I

Establishment of an advisory commission on debt and development

The General Assembly decides to defer until its forty-seventh session consideration of the draft decision entitled "Establishment of an advisory commission on debt and development". 7/

DRAFT DECISION II

Report of the Secretary-General on the recent evolution of the international debt strategy

The General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the recent evolution of the international debt strategy. 8/

7/ See A/C.2/46/L.6.

8/ A/46/415.

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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Martin RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled

"Operational activities for development:

"(a) Operational activities of the United Nations system;

"(b) United Nations Development Programme;

"(c) United Nations Capital Development Fund;

"(d) United Nations technical cooperation activities;

"(e) United Nations Volunteers programme;

"(f) World Food Programme"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item at its 34th to 37th, 42nd, 51st, 53rd, 56th and 58th meetings, on 7, 8, 15 and 26 November and 2, 6 and 11 December 1991. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (see A/C.2/46/SR.34-37). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 9th meetings, from 1 to 4 October (see A/C.2/46/SR.2-9).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Operational activities for development

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council, chap. VII, sect. A. and annex V 1/ (A/46/3 and Add.1);

(b) Letter dated 5 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final communiqué of the twenty-second South Pacific Forum, held at Palikir, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, on 29 and 30 July 1991 (A/46/344);

(c) Letter dated 27 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/501/Rev.1);

(d) Letter dated 1 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77 (A/46/520);

(e) Letter dated 23 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General requesting him to circulate the resolutions adopted by the 86th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Santiago, Chile, from 7 to 12 October 1991 (A/46/598);

(f) Letter dated 25 October 1991 from the Permanent Representatives of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a joint Nordic memorandum on strengthening the work of the United Nations in the field of operational activities (A/C.2/46/7);

Operational activities of the United Nations system

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on technical cooperation and the use of national professional project personnel (A/46/186);

(h) Comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on technical cooperation and the use of national professional project personnel (A/46/186/Add.1);

1/ To be issued in printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/46/3 and Add.1).

(i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General on operational activities of the United Nations system (A/46/206-E/1991/93 and Add.1 to 4);

United Nations Development Programme

(j) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its organizational meeting for 1991, the special session, the thirty-eighth session and the resumed thirty-eighth session (E/1991/34, Supplement No. 13 and Add.1); 2/

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women 1990 (A/46/491);

(l) Letter dated 22 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting an information note on the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to be held in Budapest from 29 November to 6 December 1991 (A/46/698 and Corr.1);

United Nations Capital Development Fund

(m) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its organizational meeting for 1991, the special session, the thirty-eighth session and the resumed thirty-eighth session (part III, chap. IX, sect. A) (E/1991/34, Supplement No. 13 and Add.1);

United Nations technical cooperation activities

(n) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its organizational meeting for 1991, the special session, the thirty-eighth session and the resumed thirty-eighth session (part III, chap. VIII) (E/1991/34, Supplement No. 13 and Add.1);

United Nations Volunteers programme

(o) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its organizational meeting for 1991, the special session, the thirty-eighth session and the resumed thirty-eighth session (E/1991/34, Supplement No. 13 and Add.1);

2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 13 (E/1991/34 and Add.1).

World Food Programme

(p) Report of the Secretary-General on participation of the United Nations in the review of the governance arrangements of the World Food Programme (A/46/265-E/1991/105).

4. At the 34th meeting, on 7 November, introductory statements were made by the Director-General for International Economic Cooperation, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Under-Secretary-General for Technical Cooperation for Development (see A/C.2/46/SR.34).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/46/L.4, L.66 and L.69 and Corr.1

5. By its decision 45/448 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, decided to transmit to its forty-sixth session for consideration the draft resolution entitled "Operational activities for development of the United Nations system" (see A/C.2/46/L.4). The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 41/171 of 5 December 1986, 42/196 of 11 December 1987, 43/199 of 20 December 1988 and 44/211 of 22 December 1989,

"Emphasizing the need for a coordinated and prompt implementation of its resolution 44/211 by all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, on the basis of a three-year schedule, taking into account the linkages and interrelationship among issues, especially in the areas of the national execution modality, programming, decentralization, and simplification, harmonization and adaptation of rules and procedures,

"Recalling its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, containing the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,

"Conscious of the objectives and priorities identified in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 3/

3/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

"Welcoming the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, adopted by the World Summit for Children, held in New York on 30 September 1990, 4/

"Recognizing the importance of the Programme of Action for the least developed countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held at Paris in September 1990, and stressing the need for the United Nations development system to implement urgently the relevant measures contained therein,

"Reaffirming the exclusive responsibility of the Governments of recipient countries to formulate their multisector and subsector strategies, which should also be used as a frame of reference for the programming of resources received from the United Nations system, and, in this context, stressing the need to remove structural obstacles in the processes and procedures of the United Nations system to enable the recipient Governments to exercise full responsibility in determining their priorities,

"Reaffirming also that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universality, their voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and multilateralism, and their ability to respond to the needs of the developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of the developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

"Aware of the acute problems of island and land-locked developing countries and their particular needs for development to overcome their economic difficulties,

"Recalling the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 5/ and recognizing the need for successor arrangements beyond 1990,

"Recalling also its resolution 42/231 of 12 May 1988 on the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America,

"Recognizing that the 1980s have been marked by the longest period of sustained economic growth in the developed countries and the continued deterioration of socio-economic conditions in the developing countries,

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4/ A/45/625, annex.

5/ Resolution S-13/2, annex.

"Concerned that multilateral resources for official development assistance, in particular those resources channelled through the United Nations system, are growing at a slower pace than the overall official development assistance, and that the official development assistance as a percentage of the gross national product of developed countries has been falling,

"Stressing the consequent need for a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of all developing countries, and emphasizing the special needs of the least developed countries,

"Recalling the role of the United Nations Development Programme as the central funding mechanism for technical cooperation in the United Nations system, the full potential of which has not yet been realized,

"Stressing that resources channelled through trust funds should be additional to programme resources,

"Emphasizing the need to increase and strengthen the promotion and implementation of technical cooperation among developing countries on a priority basis, through the rapid and full implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, 6/ in order to enhance the capacities and collective self-reliance of developing countries,

"Taking note of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its thirty-seventh session, on the fifth programming cycle, 7/ on elements of a funding strategy for the United Nations Development Programme, 8/ on agency support costs 9/ and on national execution, 10/

6/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11, and corrigendum), chap. I.

7/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 9 (E/1990/29), annex I, decision 90/34.

8/ Ibid., decision 90/14.

9/ Ibid., decision 90/26.

10/ Ibid., decision 90/21.

"Reaffirming that national execution and the full utilization of national capacities would contribute to ensuring that programmes and projects are managed in an integrated manner and to promoting their long-term sustainability and wider impact on the development process,

"Recalling the themes and objectives of the operational activities of the United Nations system, including those identified in paragraphs 3 to 8 of its resolution 44/211 and in decisions 90/14 concerning elements of a funding strategy and 90/34 on the fifth programming cycle, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, and stressing that the themes and objectives identified therein should in no way limit the prerogative of each recipient country to use United Nations assistance in the areas it chooses in accordance with its national priorities and objectives and local, cultural and socio-economic realities,

"Taking into account the difficulties that many developing countries have been facing in recent years in meeting their counterpart financial obligations under technical assistance programmes and projects of the United Nations system,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation on operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including the response of the United Nations development system, and a synthesized summary of views of some Governments on the implementation of its resolution 44/211; 11/

"2. Calls upon the international community, in particular donor countries, for a real and significant increase in resources for operational activities for development on a continuous, predictable and assured basis, and urges all countries to increase their voluntary contributions for operational activities for development;

"3. Reaffirms the need for priority allocation of grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries;

"4. Affirms that there should be a significant increase, in real terms, in the grant resources allocated to each developing country for operational activities, unless a significant increase, in real terms, in the per capita income of a country should justify otherwise;

"5. Urges continued action by the governing bodies of the United Nations development agencies in 1991 to enhance national execution of United Nations-assisted programmes and projects;

11/ A/45/273-E/1990/85 and Corr.1 and Add.1-3 and Corr.1 and Add.4-5.

"6. Requests the Director-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session proposals for developing clear system-wide guidelines for national execution on concrete measures designed to expedite the process of national execution in all United Nations-assisted programmes and projects, with a view to strengthening national capacities, taking into account the following elements:

"(a) The crucial importance of simplifying the rules and procedures for national execution and their adaptation to the procedures of the recipient Government so as to reduce the administrative burden on Governments and on the field offices of the United Nations Development Programme, and to avoid unnecessary delays in the appraisal, approval, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects;

"(b) The need to ensure that the shift towards national execution reorients the human and technical capacities of the specialized agencies and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system away from the administrative burdens of the recruitment of experts, the procurement of equipment and the award of fellowships and towards a focus on the provision of relevant technical advice and monitoring, as well as on global research, analysis and policy functions;

"(c) The need for United Nations agencies to localize, at the country level, information on databases and rosters on sources of equipment, experts and training/educational institutions, including the database for technical cooperation among developing countries (INRES), so as to facilitate the assumption by Governments of the responsibility for executing programmes and projects;

"(d) The need to take concrete action to strengthen national units in charge of technical assistance and training institutions to enable Governments, inter alia, to design, manage, monitor and evaluate programmes and projects;

"(e) The need for United Nations Development Programme field offices to be country-specific and flexible in order to provide transitional assistance to Governments that wish to undertake national execution but that have not yet built up the required national management capacities;

"(f) The importance of giving sufficient financial incentives, including incentives for technical support, through, inter alia, the agency support cost arrangements, to assist developing countries to move towards national execution;

"7. Reiterates that the recipient Governments have the sole responsibility for the coordination and programming of external assistance and the principal responsibility for its design and management and that the exercise of those responsibilities is crucial to the optimal use of external assistance and to the strengthening and utilization of national capacity;

"8. Emphasizes that, to enable Governments to design, coordinate and effectively programme United Nations assistance on the basis of their multisectoral, sectoral and subsectoral strategies, the following measures need to be undertaken:

"(a) Urgent implementation of paragraph 17 (c) of its resolution 44/211, which concerns the harmonization of the programming cycles of all United Nations funding agencies and their adaptation to the planning periods of recipient Governments;

"(b) Integration of non-emergency food aid from the World Food Programme with funds provided by the organizations of the United Nations by ensuring that the World Food Programme Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations approves resources on the basis of a programme rather than a project-by-project approach;

"(c) Reliance on national institutions and capacities for data collection, analysis and formulation and assessment of national programmes, with the United Nations development system providing technical advice, where necessary, including high-quality data/information on development experience within the context of technical cooperation among developing countries;

"(d) Provision of resources by the United Nations funding agencies, including the trust fund resources of the specialized agencies and the funds administered by the United Nations Development Programme on the basis of the strategies of the recipient Government, which would serve as frames of reference for the programming of resources from the United Nations development system in an integrated manner;

"(e) Coordinated review of rules, procedures and formats governing the appraisal, formulation, approval, procurement, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects, with a view to promoting a programme approach and facilitating national execution;

"(f) Uniform and appropriate decentralization of authority to the country level;

"(g) Assisting recipient countries in building and strengthening the capacities of units in charge of technical assistance to enable Governments to exercise fully their responsibility for managing and programming United Nations development system resources;

"9. Takes note of the agreement in principle of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy to harmonize its programming cycles with national planning and budget cycles, and calls upon the Group to intensify its efforts in this direction;

"10. Requests the Director-General in cooperation with the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations development system, through their respective governing bodies, to institute greater country focus in their activities, which would improve efficiency and effectiveness and facilitate the maximum utilization and strengthening of national execution; this would require a redefinition of the roles, composition and range of skills available at their headquarters and in country offices, involving, inter alia, a better balance between technical expertise and administrative support staff at the country level, according to the specific needs of each recipient country, with agency headquarters providing support to the country offices through selective intervention;

"11. Takes note of the action taken by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund and the Governing Councils of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund in 1990 on decentralization in the context of the implementation of its resolution 44/211, and requests the governing bodies of the United Nations development system and the executive heads of the organizations concerned to delegate full authority to country offices, in keeping with the requirements of financial accountability, to make decisions in the following vital areas:

"(a) Procurement, awarding of fellowships and hiring of experts;

"(b) Negotiating details of project agreements;

"(c) Reviewing disbursements on a regular basis;

"(d) Reallocating funds between programmes and projects within the limits set by the country programme;

"(e) Authorizing reimbursements of eligible expenses incurred by recipients;

"(f) Making changes in the scope and design of individual projects, as required;

"12. Also requests the governing bodies of the United Nations development system and the executive heads of the organizations concerned to develop criteria for the programme audit function to ensure greater impact and the long-term sustainability of programmes;

"13. Notes with appreciation the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on successor arrangements for agency support costs, 12/ and calls upon the Administrator of the United

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12/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 9 (E/1990/29), annex I, decision 90/26.

Nations Development Programme, in cooperation with the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system to make concrete proposals to enable the Governing Council to take a decision on outstanding issues in 1991;

"14. Stresses the need, in the implementation of operational activities, to increase substantially the procurement of equipment and services, hiring of experts and utilization of the training facilities available in developing countries in order to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among them;

"15. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the Office of the Director-General, taking into account the need for equitable geographical distribution, to ensure adequate system-wide follow-up, monitoring and coordination of the implementation process on the basis of a consistent set of agreed guidelines;

"16. Requests the United Nations development system, in particular the United Nations funding agencies, to continue to show maximum flexibility to recipient countries facing financial difficulties in meeting their counterpart financial contributions for ongoing projects;

"17. Takes note of the three-year schedule for the implementation of the provisions of its resolution 44/211, and requests the Director-General to continue to ensure implementation of the provisions of that resolution and of the present resolution, and to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council."

6. At the 51st meeting, on 26 November, the representative of Ghana, speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.66) entitled "Operational activities for development of the United Nations system", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the continuing validity of its resolutions 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 and the significance of resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 42/196 of 11 December 1987 and 44/211 of 22 December 1989,

"Recalling its resolutions S-18/3 of 1 May 1990 and 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

"Reaffirming that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be their universality, their voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and multilateralism, and their ability to respond to the needs and concerns of the developing countries, at their request and in accordance with their development plans, priorities and objectives,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation concerning operational activities of the United Nations system; 13/

"2. Reaffirms the need for the coordinated and full implementation of resolution 44/211 by the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, taking into account the linkages and interrelationships among issues;

"3. Takes note with concern of the overall low level of resources pledged for operational activities for development at the 1991 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

"4. Emphasizes that the challenges of the present decade require a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, as well as substantial concessional resources commensurate with the increasing needs of all developing countries so that they can revive and sustain economic growth and development, and emphasizes the urgent need for the developed countries to meet the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance and the targets established at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; 14/

"5. Stresses that resources channelled through trust funds should be additional to programme resources;

"6. Reaffirms the leading role of Governments of developing countries in managing programmes and projects financed by the United Nations system;

"I. National execution

"7. Stresses that national execution should be the modality for programmes and projects funded by the United Nations system, taking into account the needs of developing countries;

"8. Stresses also that to ensure national capacity-building and self-reliance, the rules and procedures for national execution should be simplified within the framework of enhanced accountability in order to minimize the administrative burden of Governments and the cost of managing projects and programmes;

"9. Stresses further that national capacity should be assessed exclusively by the Governments of the developing countries;

13/ A/46/206-E/1991/93 and Add.1-4.

14/ See A/CONF.147/Misc.9.

"10. Requests the Director-General to include in the context of the triennial policy review, on the basis of consultations with recipient Governments, an analysis of the progress made in utilizing the modality of national execution, taking into account, in particular:

"(a) Experience in utilizing national capacities to undertake projects and programmes based on country-specific needs;

"(b) Identification of systemic and institutional obstacles and disincentives in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system which impede the full implementation of this modality;

"(c) Identification of essential norms and common standards applicable to operational activities to ensure progress in harmonization and simplification of procedures and their adaptation to the needs of the developing countries;

"(d) Ways to ensure a balance between the requirements of harmonization, decentralization and preservation of flexibility in order to meet differing needs and objectives, bearing in mind the diversity of sources for technical cooperation;

"(e) Measures to improve accountability through training and development in national monitoring capacity, as well as in auditing and financial reporting;

"(f) Identification of measures to reorient, inter alia, the technical capacity of the United Nations system to meet the needs identified by the developing countries, including measures in the areas of policy, technical support, and information and databases;

"11. Takes note of decision 91/32 on support costs successor arrangements, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on 25 June 1991, 15/ and calls upon the United Nations system to ensure that this arrangement facilitates national capacity-building through national execution and to increase and improve the technical advice provided at the request of Governments;

"II. Resident coordinator system

"12. Reaffirms the continued validity of the resident coordinator system as detailed in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in this regard calls on the Director-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session an assessment of the

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15/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 13 (E/1991/34), annex I.

implementation of the guidelines to strengthen the team leadership role of the resident coordinator;

"III. Programming

"13. Calls upon the organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to assist developing countries, at their request, in developing their multisectoral, sectoral and subsectoral strategies, which should provide a framework for coherent programming, and in this regard requests the Director-General, within the context of the triennial policy review, to report on the implementation of paragraph 17 of resolution 44/211, in particular concerning:

"(a) The harmonization and adaptation of the programming cycles of all funding agencies of the United Nations system to those of national Governments;

"(b) The simplification of procedures relating to project formulation appraisals, monitoring and evaluation, taking into account the need to focus on the impact and sustainability of the projects and programmes funded by the United Nations system;

"(c) The feasibility of programme evaluation and audit systems, with a view to achieving a balanced focus on the efficiency and impact of programmes;

"13. Requests the Director-General to include in his report the measures taken for the decentralization and delegation of authority at the country level, taking into account the arrangements for the following:

"(a) Programme and project management, including flexibility for adjustments and for reallocation of funds;

"(b) Negotiations and decisions relating to the project cycle;

"(c) Procurement of equipment, provision of training and recruitment of personnel;

"IV. Training

"14. Calls upon the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to utilize existing capacities to enhance the development of human resources in areas central to national execution as identified by Governments;

"15. Welcomes the proposal of the Director-General to undertake a feasibility study on a strategy of training for United Nations staff members and national officials involved in operational activities and

requests him to submit the study, with his recommendations, to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

"16. Requests the Director-General to prepare a report containing an assessment of the contributions of the operational activities of the United Nations system to the enhancement of the scientific and technological capacities of developing countries and the access of those countries to technologies, including new and emerging ones, and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

"17. Requests the Director-General to include in his updated statistical report innovative and effective recommendations to increase substantially procurement from developing countries in accordance with the relevant provisions of resolution 44/211 and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

"18. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of the Office of the Director-General and to make available the necessary resources to enable it to discharge its responsibilities in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211 and the present resolution."

7. At the 51st meeting, on 26 November, the representative of the Netherlands introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.69 and Corr.1) entitled "Operational activities for development", on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Emphasizing the importance of strengthening the operational activities for development of the United Nations system in accordance with its resolution 44/211 of 22 December 1989,

"Recognizing that progress has been made in implementing parts of resolution 44/211 by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system individually, as well as through coordinating mechanisms such as the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the Joint Consultative Group on Policies and the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities),

"Noting with concern that progress in implementing other parts of resolution 44/211 has been disappointing, and stressing the need for more vigorous efforts to implement the resolution in those areas,

"Recognizing the need to give guidance to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to assist him in producing his report in preparation for the next triennial review of operational activities to be undertaken by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation on operational activities for development of the United Nations system; 13/

"2. Reaffirms the importance of its resolution 44/211 and stresses the need to implement all the elements of that resolution;

"3. Stresses, in particular, the need for more vigorous efforts by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement resolution 44/211 in the following areas:

"(a) The need for the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) and the individual agencies to speed up work in conjunction, where appropriate, with other bilateral and multilateral donors, on simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures, keeping in mind the need for accountability and for more simple and transparent procedures;

"(b) The need to enhance the coherence of the response of the United Nations system to national programming processes, in particular by implementing the guidelines elaborated on this issue by the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities);

"(c) The need urgently to strengthen the effectiveness of the resident coordinator system, by implementing the guidelines on this issue elaborated by the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities), and generally improving cooperation between individual agencies, especially at the field level;

"(d) The need for decentralization of authority and greater budgetary flexibility, combined with enhanced accountability;

"4. Requests the Director-General to include information on the progress made with respect to the issues dealt with in paragraph 3 of the present resolution in the report to be submitted to the regular session of 1992 of the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with paragraph 29 of General Assembly resolution 44/211;

"5. Reaffirms the importance of the triennial review of operational activities to be undertaken by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

"6. Decides that the triennial review should build on and, where necessary, elaborate further the elements of resolution 44/211;

"7. Requests the Director-General, in preparing his report for the triennial review, to concentrate on the following issues:

"(a) The field structure of the United Nations, with particular emphasis on:

"(i) The leadership role of the resident coordinator;

"(ii) The role of multidisciplinary teams;

"(iii) The need for common premises at the country level;

"(b) Programming, with particular emphasis on:

"(i) The integrated operational response of the United Nations system to national programming frameworks and priorities;

"(ii) Coordination within the United Nations system and with recipient countries;

"(c) National execution, with particular emphasis on:

"(i) The provision of technical assistance by United Nations agencies;

"(ii) National participation at all levels of project and programme development so as to maximize capacity-building;

"(d) The need for increased and improved training at the national, field and headquarters level;

"(e) Ways of improving progress towards greater decentralization and accountability;

"8. Requests the executive heads of United Nations organs, organizations and bodies fully to cooperate with the Director-General and provide him with all necessary assistance to enable him to prepare an action-oriented report;

"9. Requests the Director-General to submit a progress report to the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1992."

8. A statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/C.2/45/L.66 and L.69 and Corr.1, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, was circulated in document A/C.2/46/L.115.

9. At the 58th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ioan Barac (Romania), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolutions and drew the Committee's attention to a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.121) submitted on the basis of draft resolutions A/C.2/46/L.66 and L.69 and Corr.1.

10. The Committee had before it a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.121, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/46/L.123).

11. The representative of Pakistan made a statement in which she orally corrected draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.121.

12. Following statements by the Chairman and the representatives of France, Tunisia, Spain, Morocco, Zaire, Benin, the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the European Community), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Guatemala and Greece, the Committee decided to take no action on draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.121. The Chairman informed the Committee that he would submit draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.121 in the name of his delegation.

13. In the light of the course of action taken on draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.121, draft resolutions A/C.2/46/L.66 and L.69 and Corr.1 were withdrawn by their sponsors, and it was agreed that no action be taken on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/46/L.4.

B. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.47

14. At the 42nd meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Ghana introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.47) entitled "Celebration of World Food Day", on behalf of Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chile, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen and Zambia. Subsequently Chad and Rwanda joined in sponsoring the draft resolution and Botswana, Cape Verde, Chile, Comoros, Cyprus, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Guatemala, Jamaica, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Namibia, Nepal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Venezuela and Yemen withdrew from sponsoring the draft decision. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in which it confirms the importance of coherence, coordination and efficient management of all activities,

"Recalling also its resolution 44/221 of 22 December 1989, in which it stresses the need to maximize the complementarities and avoid duplication of operational activities for development,

"Recalling further its resolution 35/70 of 5 December 1980 on World Food Day, in which it urges international organizations, inter alia, to contribute to the effective commemoration of World Food Day to the greatest possible extent,

"Urges the Rome-based United Nations food agencies - the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Council, the World Food Programme - to prepare and observe jointly the annual celebration of World Food Day in order to increase awareness and maximize support world wide for eradication of hunger and promotion of food security through coordinated operational activities."

15. At the 58th meeting, on 11 December, the Chairman made a statement.

16. At the same meeting, in the light of the statement made by the Chairman, draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.47 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

C. Draft decision A/C.2/46/L.67

17. At the 51st meeting, on 26 November, the representative of Ghana, speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft decision (A/C.2/46/L.67) entitled "Technical cooperation among developing countries as a modality in the formulation, preparation, execution and evaluation of the projects implemented by the organs, organizations, bodies, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields".

18. At the 56th meeting, on 6 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ioan Barac (Romania), informed the Committee that, as a result of the informal consultations held on the draft decision, it had been agreed that the words "to include in the provisional agenda for its regular session of 1992 an item entitled" would be replaced by the words "to consider among the various proposals for themes for the coordination segment of its regular session in 1992 a theme entitled".

19. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/46/L.67, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 29, draft decision I).

D. Draft decisions A/C.2/46/L.70 and Corr.1 and L.103

20. At the 51st meeting, on 26 November, the representative of Sweden introduced a draft decision (A/C.2/46/L.70 and Corr.1) entitled "Strengthening of the work of the United Nations in the field of operational activities", on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The draft decision read as follows:

"The General Assembly, recalling its resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and bearing in mind the need to strengthen the operational activities of the United Nations system, in particular the governance and financing aspects thereof, decides:

"(a) To request the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1992, to decide on suitable modalities to ensure that the question of strengthening the operational activities of the United Nations system is discussed by the Council at its regular session of 1992, taking into account in that regard the recommendations of the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination concerning the selection of themes for 1992; 16/

"(b) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1992 an analytical report which should include recent and relevant studies on operational activities, including the Nordic United Nations project." 17/

21. At the 56th meeting, on 6 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ioan Barac (Romania), introduced and orally corrected a draft decision (A/C.2/46/L.103), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft decision A/C.2/46/L.70 and Corr.1.

22. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/46/L.103 without a vote (see para. 29, draft decision II).

23. In the light of the adoption of draft decision A/C.2/46/L.103, draft decision A/C.2/46/L.70 and Corr.1 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

E. Draft resolutions A/C.2/46/L.87 and Rev.1

24. At the 53rd meeting, on 2 December, the representative of Malaysia introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.87) entitled "United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report", on behalf of Algeria, China, the Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, and orally revised the last preambular paragraph thereof by adding at the end the words "and the divergent views on the subject among the human rights experts at the seminar sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme, held on 19 and 20 November 1991 in New York". The draft resolution, as orally revised, read as follows:

16/ E/1991/143, para. 69.

17/ See A/C.2/46/7.

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 on the capacity of the United Nations development system, 3405 (XXX) of 28 November 1975, on new dimensions in technical cooperation, 44/211 of 22 December 1989 on the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, S-18/3 of 1 May 1990 containing the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 45/199 of 21 December 1990 on the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,

"Reaffirming also that neutrality is a fundamental characteristic of the operational activities for the development of the United Nations system,

"Mindful of the commitment to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the importance of economic and social development to human well-being,

"Affirming that economic growth is a means to development, together with enlarging peoples' choices and opportunities fostering equity, fair income distribution and the development of human resources, and increasing productivity,

"Expressing its appreciation for the work of the United Nations development system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, in extending economic and technical assistance to the developing countries in carrying out their development activities in accordance with the mandate given to the organization,

"Welcoming the 1990 United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report which emphasized the importance of peoples' participation in development and contained a broader concept of analysing development progress than the single criterion of per capita income,

"Recalling United Nations Development Programme Governing Council decision 91/6 of 25 June 1991 on human development,

"Recognizing that the incorporation of a human freedom index in the 1991 Human Development Report raises the question of mandate and causes serious divisions among member States, and the divergent views on the subject among the human rights experts at the seminars sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme, held on 19 and 20 November 1991 in New York,

"1. Underlines that, while studies on various matters relating to human rights are an important undertaking for the United Nations system, such studies should be dealt with by the competent and relevant United

Nations bodies, with proper mandates - namely, the Commission on Human Rights and Centre for Human Rights;

"2. Emphasizes that attempts to utilize other United Nations bodies for their deliberations, measurements and conclusions on issues relating to human/political freedoms threaten to cause those bodies to deviate from their natures, purposes and principles;

"3. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to focus on assisting Governments in carrying out their development programmes and projects and to suspend the incorporation of a human freedom index and issues relating to human/political freedoms in the work of programme-sponsored reports and studies, including the Human Development Report, in the absence of a clear and proper mandate given by the General Assembly."

25. At the 58th meeting, on 11 December, the representative of Malaysia introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.87/Rev.1), and orally revised it as follows:

(a) The second and third preambular paragraphs, which read:

"Reaffirming also the fundamental characteristic of the operational activities for the development of the United Nations system, as defined in the above resolutions, including the principle of neutrality,

"Mindful of the commitment to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the importance of economic and social development to human well-being,"

were deleted;

(b) In the sixth preambular paragraph the words "these aspects of" were inserted after the word "Welcoming"; and the original footnote 1, which read "United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report, 1990, and Human Development Report, 1991 (New York and Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1990 and 1991)" was deleted;

(c) In the operative paragraph, the words "with the participation of Governments and human rights experts, in order to facilitate the Governing Council's decision on" were replaced by the words "in order for the Governing Council to facilitate and decide on the".

26. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.87/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 28).

Documents relating to operational activities for development

27. At the 58th meeting, on 11 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of reports under item 82 on which no draft proposals had been submitted (see para. 29, draft decision III).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

28. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Development Programme
Human Development Report

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 on the capacity of the United Nations development system, 3405 (XXX) of 28 November 1975 on new dimensions in technical cooperation, 44/211 of 22 December 1989 on the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, containing the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and 45/199 of 21 December 1990, containing the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,

Affirming that economic growth is a means to development, together with enlarging peoples' choices and opportunities, fostering equity, fair income distribution and the development of human resources, and increasing productivity,

Expressing its appreciation for the work of the United Nations development system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, in extending economic and technical assistance to the developing countries in carrying out their development activities, in accordance with the mandate given to the organization,

Welcoming these aspects of the United Nations Development Programme Human Development Reports, which emphasized the importance of peoples' participation in development and contained a broader concept of analysing development progress than the single criterion of per capita income,

Recalling decision 91/6 of 25 June 1991 on human development, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, 15/

Taking into account the divergent views expressed by delegations at the thirty-eighth session of the Governing Council, during the deliberations on the annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for 1990, 18/ pertaining to the Human Development Report, 1991, in particular to the incorporation and elaboration of a human freedom index therein,

Takes note of the intention of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to inform the Governing Council of the Programme, at its special session in February 1992, of the outcome of the regional consultations held in the autumn of 1991, in order for the Governing Council to facilitate and decide on the future work in the area of human development, taking fully into account the views expressed by delegations at the special session of the Governing Council, prior to the publication of the Human Development Report, 1992.

29. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Technical cooperation among developing countries as a modality in the formulation, preparation, execution and evaluation of the projects implemented by the organs, organizations, bodies, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields

The General Assembly requests the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1992, to include in the provisional agenda for its regular session of 1992 an item to consider among the various proposals for themes for the coordination segment of its regular session in 1992 a theme entitled "Technical cooperation among developing countries as a modality in the formulation, preparation, execution and evaluation of the projects implemented by the organs, organizations, bodies, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields".

DRAFT DECISION II

Strengthening of the work of the United Nations in the field of operational activities

The General Assembly, in the context of the need to strengthen the operational activities of the United Nations system and bearing in mind the restructuring and revitalization process, and in order to more effectively and efficiently support the developing countries in their development process, decides:

18/ See DP/1991/10.

(a) To request the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1992, to consider that the question of strengthening the operational activities of the United Nations system is discussed by the Council at its regular session of 1992, taking into account in that regard the recommendations of the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination; 16/

(b) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its regular session of 1992, an analytical report on strengthening the operational activities of the United Nations system, including the governance and financing aspects thereof and drawing upon relevant studies, such as the Nordic United Nations project, 17/ and which also should identify other relevant and interrelated aspects of strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of the operational activities of the United Nations system.

DRAFT DECISION III

Documents relating to operational activities for development

The General Assembly takes note of (a) the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on technical cooperation and the use of national professional project personnel, and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon; 19/ (b) the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of UNDP on the United Nations Development Fund for Women; 20/ (c) the report of the Secretary-General on participation of the United Nations in the review of the governance arrangements of the World Food programme. 21/

19/ A/46/186 and Add.1.

20/ A/44/491.

21/ A/45/265.

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Agenda item 83

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Martin RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item together with the following questions:

"Report of the Economic and Social Council: critical humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa", under item 12;

"Special economic and disaster relief assistance:

"(a) Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator;

"(b) Special programmes of economic assistance"; under item 84;

"International assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola", under item 85;

"Emergency assistance for the economic and social rehabilitation of Liberia", under item 91.

3. The cluster of items was considered at the 26th to 29th meetings, on 31 October and 1 November. Action on item 83 was taken at the 40th and

53rd meetings, on 12 November and 2 December. An account of the Committee's discussion of the items is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/46/SR.26-29, 40 and 53).

4. Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 9th meetings, from 1 to 4 October 1991 (see A/C.2/46/SR.3-9).

5. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council, chap. VII, sect. E (A/46/3); 1/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/46/266-E/1991/106 and Add.1);

(c) Letter dated 1 August 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General forwarding the Final Communiqué of the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community concluded at Basseterre on 4 July 1991 (A/46/336);

(d) Letter dated 1 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Group of 77, adopted on 30 September 1991 on the occasion of their fifteenth annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York (A/46/520);

(e) Letter dated 23 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the resolutions adopted by the 86th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Santiago from 7 to 12 October 1991 (A/46/598-S/23166);

(f) Letter dated 22 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting an information note on the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to be held in Budapest from 29 November to 6 December 1991 (A/46/698 and Corr.1);

(g) Letter dated 21 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Concluding Statement of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Summit Conference on Earthquake and Natural Disaster Countermeasures, 1991, Japan, held from 8 to 11 October 1991 in Tokyo (A/C.2/46/16).

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/46/3/Rev.1).

6. At the 26th meeting, on 31 October, introductory statements were made by the Director General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and the Acting Director for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Secretariat (see A/C.2/46/SR.26).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.39

7. At the 40th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Ghana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the Group of 77, China, Italy, Japan, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America, subsequently joined by Australia, Belgium, France and Iceland, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.39), entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction".

8. A statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, submitted in accordance with rule 53 of the rules of procedure for the General Assembly, was subsequently circulated in document A/C.2/46/L.76.

9. At the 53rd meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Bozorgmehr Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), informed the Committee of the results of informal consultations held on the draft resolution and revised operative paragraph 5 by adding the words "WHO Regional Office for the Americas" after "Health Organization".

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.39, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 11).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/169 of 11 December 1987, 43/202 of 20 December 1988, 44/236 of 22 December 1989, in which it proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and 45/185 of 21 December 1990,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/58 of 26 July 1991,

Reaffirming the need for the international community to demonstrate the strong political determination required to mobilize and use existing scientific and technical knowledge to mitigate natural disasters, bearing in mind, in particular, the needs of developing countries,

Welcoming the positive steps taken by approximately one hundred Governments in establishing national committees or focal points to stimulate and coordinate disaster mitigation activities for the purpose of attaining the objective and goals set for the Decade,

Reconfirming the important responsibility of the United Nations system as a whole for promoting international cooperation in order to mitigate natural disasters, provide assistance and coordinate relief, preparedness and prevention,

Welcoming the establishment of the Special High-Level Council, which completes the organizational arrangements for the Decade called for in its resolution 44/236, and the inaugural session of the Council, held in New York on 9 and 10 October 1991, on the occasion of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction,

Expressing its appreciation to those countries that have provided generous support to the activities of the Decade through voluntary contributions, including staff secondments, the development and implementation of disaster reduction projects and the hosting of activities or meetings related to the Decade,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Decade, the addendum to which contains the New York Declaration of the Special High-Level Council and the first annual report of the Scientific and Technical Committee on the Decade, 1/

1. Endorses the Declaration of the Special High-Level Council and encourages the members of the Council to embark actively on the implementation of their tasks, with particular attention to increasing public awareness of the potential for disaster reduction and raising support for the activities of the Decade from Governments, funding organizations and the business community;

2. Endorses the recommendations contained in the first annual report of the Scientific and Technical Committee on the Decade, 2/ while recognizing that implementation by disaster-vulnerable countries of the targets set by that Committee would constitute significant progress in reducing the impact of disasters during the Decade;

1/ A/46/266-E/1991/106 and Add.1.

2/ A/46/266-E/1991/106/Add.1, annex II.

3. Endorses also the proposal of the Scientific and Technical Committee concerning the convening in 1994 of a world conference of representatives of national committees for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 3/ which would bring together participants from a broad range of sectors of activity, including the scientific and technological sector, the business sector and the industrial sector, as well as non-governmental groups, and which would serve as a substantive contribution to the mid-term review of the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade, called for in its resolution 44/236;

4. Commends the initiatives already taken by countries exposed to disasters to reduce their vulnerability, and encourages them to continue with the adoption of national disaster mitigation policies and their implementation during the Decade in the context of their socio-economic development, taking into account the targets proposed by the Scientific and Technical Committee as a measure of progress in disaster reduction;

5. Stresses the benefits of regional meetings with heads of national committees, such as that organized by the Pan-American Health Organization, the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Americas, the Organization of American States and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator at Guatemala City from 9 to 13 September 1991;

6. Invites Governments to accelerate communication and cooperation globally and at the regional level in order to share valuable experience and to transfer scientific and technical knowledge for disaster mitigation;

7. Reiterates its appeals to the international community, in particular, to donor countries, for adequate funding, including contributions to the Trust Fund, for carrying out the activities of the Decade;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the activities of the Decade.

3/ Ibid., para. 6 (e).

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Agenda item 84

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Martin RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled:

"Special economic and disaster relief assistance:

"(a) Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator;

"(b) Special programmes of economic assistance"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item, together with the following question and items:

"Report of the Economic and Social Council: critical humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa", under item 12;

"International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction", under item 83;

"International assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola", under item 85;

"Emergency assistance for the economic and social rehabilitation of Liberia", under item 91.

3. The cluster of items was considered at the 26th to 29th meetings, on 31 October and 1 November. Action on item 84 was taken at the 38th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 45th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 54th, 55th and 56th meetings, on 11, 12, 13, 15, 19, 21, 26 and 27 November and 3, 4, and 6 December. An account of the Committee's discussion of the items is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/46/SR.26-29, 38, 40, 41, 42, 45, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55 and 56). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 9th meetings, from 1 to 4 October 1991 (see A/C.2/46/SR.3-9).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council, chap. VII, sects. F.3 and G and annex IV (A/46/3); 1/

(b) Letter dated 1 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Declaration of the European Council on improvement of emergency assistance within the United Nations framework, issued on 29 June 1991 (A/46/288);

(c) Letter dated 15 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, forwarding an urgent appeal to the international community for disaster relief assistance to the disaster areas in the Anhui and Jiangsu Provinces of China, made by the Secretary-General of the China National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and Vice-Minister of Civil Affairs (A/46/306);

(a) Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the capacity, experience and coordination arrangements in the United Nations system for humanitarian assistance (A/46/568);

(b) Special programmes of economic assistance

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Yemen (A/46/217-E/1991/94);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General: summary reports on Chad and Djibouti (A/46/316);

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/46/3/Rev.1).

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on special assistance to front-line States and other bordering States (A/46/369);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on emergency assistance to the Sudan and Operation Lifeline Sudan (A/46/452);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on emergency assistance to Somalia (A/46/457);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America (A/46/458);

(k) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (A/46/557 and Add.1, Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2).

5. At the 26th meeting, on 31 October, introductory statements were made by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator, the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, the Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Coordinator of Assistance to the Least Developed Countries (see A/C.2/46/SR.26).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

(b) Special programmes of economic assistance

1. Draft resolutions A/C.2/46/L.2/Rev.1 and 2

6. At the 38th meeting, on 11 November, the Chairman of the Committee informed the Committee that the title of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.2/Rev.1 should read as follows: "Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America".

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Nicaragua, also on behalf of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama, introduced a draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.2/Rev.1), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 42/1 of 7 October 1987, 43/24 of 15 November 1988, 44/10 of 23 October 1989 and 45/15 of 20 November 1990,

"Recalling in particular its resolutions 42/204 of 11 December 1987, 42/231 of 12 May 1988, 43/210 of 20 December 1988, 44/182 of 19 December 1989 and 45/231 of 21 December 1990,

"Recalling the importance of the Secretary-General's efforts regarding the situation in Central America, as well as the continuous involvement of the United Nations in respect of economic cooperation for the region,

"Particularly interested in continuing to address the emergency situation in Central America and alarmed at the gravity of the economic and social crisis that continues to affect the region,

"Recognizing the work being done by the United Nations Development Programme in discharging the responsibilities entrusted to it for the coordination of the Special Plan,

"Recognizing that the Republic of Panama has participated continuously in all the intraregional coordination and decision-making mechanisms of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, and that the Central American Presidents, in the Declaration of San Salvador of 17 July 1991, 2/ welcomed the decision by the Government of Panama to participate fully and actively in the process of integration in Central America,

"Reaffirming its conviction that peace, development and democracy are inseparable,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, 3/ describing the status of implementation of the Plan;

"2. Decides to approve the inclusion of the Republic of Panama as a full and formal participant in the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America;

"3. Welcomes decision 91/3 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on 12 February 1991, 4/ and Council decision 91/54 of 20 September 1991, 5/ earmarking $US 20 million from Special Programme Resources for the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America during the fifth programming cycle;

2/ A/45/1039, annex.

3/ A/46/458.

4/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 13 (E/1991/34).

5/ E/1991/L.27/Add.1.

"4. Again urges Member States and observers, intergovernmental organizations, international finance institutions, organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and regional and subregional organs and institutions to continue participating actively, to take steps to implement activities in support of the goals and objectives of the Special Plan, bearing in mind the difficult socio-economic situation facing the Central American countries, and to support projects presented by those countries under the mechanisms of the Special Plan;

"5. Stresses the urgent need for the international community to increase its technical assistance and to provide the Central American countries with additional and appropriate financial resources on soft and favourable terms, with a view to effectively promoting the development and economic growth of the region;

"6. Welcomes the Joint Political Declaration and the Joint Economic Communiqué issued by the Ministerial Conference on Political Dialogue and Economic Cooperation between the States members of the European Community and the Central American States, including Panama, and the States members of the Group of Cooperating Countries (Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela), held at Managua on 18 and 19 March 1991, reaffirming the commitment to continue participating in the revitalization and economic and social development of the region;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit, at the forty-eighth session, a progress report on the implementation of the Special Plan;

"8. Decides to examine and evaluate implementation of the Special Plan at its forty-eighth session."

8. At its 51st meeting, on 26 November, the Committee had before it a further revision of the draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.2/Rev.2) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.2/Rev.1, joined by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Haiti, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela, subsequently joined by Finland and Suriname.

9. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Bozorgmehr Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), read out the following revisions agreed upon during informal consultations:

(a) In operative paragraph 4, the words "Member States and observers" were replaced by "all States";

(b) In operative paragraph 8, the word "its" was inserted between the words "evaluate" and "implementation".

10. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.2/Rev.2, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 56, draft resolution I).

2. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.35

12. At the 38th meeting, on 11 November, the representative of the Central African Republic, also on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Gabon, Guinea, Honduras, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Singapore, Togo and Zaire, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.35) entitled "Special economic assistance to Chad".

13. At the 51st meeting, on 26 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Bozorgmehr Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran) reported on the informal consultations which had been held on the draft resolution.

14. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.35 without a vote (see para. 56, draft resolution II).

16. The representatives of Cameroon and Senegal announced that their delegations would have wished to co-sponsor the draft resolution.

17. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Chad.

3. Draft resolutions A/C.2/46/L.36 and Rev.1

18. At the 40th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Zambia, also on behalf of Angola, Barbados, Botswana, Egypt, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.36) entitled "Special assistance to the front-line States", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 45/224 of 21 December 1990,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 6/ on special assistance to front-line States and other bordering States,

"Reaffirming the provisions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, contained in the annex to its resolution S-16/1 of 14 December 1989, in particular paragraph 9 (e) thereof, in which the States Members of the United Nations decided to render all possible assistance to the front-line and neighbouring States to enable them to rebuild their economies, which had been adversely affected by South Africa's acts of aggression and destabilization, and to withstand any further such acts,

"Aware that the continuing existence of the apartheid system in South Africa aggravates economic and social problems confronting the front-line States and other neighbouring States,

"Noting the evolving situation in South Africa,

"Conscious of the urgent need and responsibility of the international community to address the problems affecting the region,

"Mindful of Security Council resolutions 568 (1985) of 21 June 1985, 571 (1985) of 20 September 1985 and 581 (1986) of 13 February 1986, in which the Council, inter alia, requested the international community to render assistance to the front-line States,

"1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts regarding assistance to the front-line States;

"2. Notes with appreciation the assistance being rendered to the front-line States by donor countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

"3. "Expresses its deep concern about the adverse effects of past acts of aggression and continued destabilization undertaken directly or indirectly through surrogates against front-line States and other neighbouring States;

"4. Notes with concern that the violence in South Africa diminishes prospects for peace in the entire southern African region;

6/ A/46/369.

"5. Strongly urges the international community to continue to provide in a timely and effective manner the financial, material and technical assistance necessary to enhance the individual and collective capacity of the front-line States and other neighbouring States to withstand the effects of economic measures taken by South Africa, or by the international community against South Africa, in accordance with their national and regional plans and strategies;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to respond to such requests for assistance as might be forthcoming from individual States or the appropriate subregional organizations, and further urges all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to respond favourably to such requests;

"7. Appeals to all States and appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the national and collective emergency programmes prepared by the front-line States and other neighbouring States to overcome the critical problems arising from the situation in South Africa, taking into account the special circumstances of the most affected countries;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

19. At its 55th meeting, on 4 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.36/Rev.1) submitted by the sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.36, joined by Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania and Trinidad and Tobago. Subsequently, Canada, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, Suriname and Sweden joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

20. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Bozorgmehr Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), orally revised the draft resolution by replacing the words "had been adversely affected" by the words "have been adversely affected" in the third preambular paragraph.

21. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

22. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/36/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 56, draft resolution III).

4. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.37

23. At the 38th meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Jordan, also on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, Brazil, Chile, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Tunisia and Yemen, introduced a

draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.37) entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon".

24. At the 51st meeting, on 26 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Bozorgmehr Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), read out the following revisions to the draft resolution agreed upon during informal consultations:

(a) In operative paragraph 4, the words "the steps necessary" were replaced by "necessary steps";

(b) In operative paragraph 5 (b), the word "representative" was replaced by "coordinator".

25. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

26. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.37, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 56, draft resolution IV).

27. After the Committee adopted the draft resolution, the representative of Lebanon made a statement.

5. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.42

28. At the 41st meeting, on 13 November, the representative of Yemen, also on behalf of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Peru, the Philippines, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic, subsequently joined by Algeria, Oman, Suriname and Tunisia, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.42) entitled "Special assistance to Yemen".

29. At the 51st meeting, on 26 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Bozorgmehr Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), read out the following revision to the draft resolution which had been agreed upon during informal consultations: in operative paragraph 1, the word "special" was added between the words "their" and "assistance".

30. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

31. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.42, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 56, draft resolution V).

32. After the Committee adopted the draft resolution, the representative of Yemen made a statement.

6. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.44

33. At the 45th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Saudi Arabia, also on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by Togo, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.44) entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti".

34. At the 52nd meeting, on 27 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Bozorgmehr Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), read out the following revisions to the draft resolution agreed upon during informal consultations:

(a) In the eighth preambular paragraph, the number "85,000" was replaced by "95,000";

(b) In operative paragraph 6, the words "Economic and Social Council in July 1991 and by the" were deleted.

35. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

36. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.44, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 56, draft resolution VI).

7. Draft resolutions A/C.2/46/L.45 and Rev.1

37. At the 42nd meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Egypt, also on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Cape Verde, Chile, the Comoros, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.45) entitled "Emergency assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 43/206 of 20 December 1988, 44/178 of 19 December 1989 and 45/229 of 21 December 1990 and the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the subject,

"Recalling also the appeal for urgent humanitarian assistance for Somalia and other countries in Africa made by the Secretary-General at the twenty-seventh ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held at Abuja from 3 to 5 June 1991,

"Noting with satisfaction the measures taken by the Secretary-General to mobilize international assistance to Somalia,

"Deeply concerned at the massive displacement of the population in the affected regions of Somalia, the extensive damage and destruction of villages, towns and cities, the heavy damage inflicted by the civil conflict on the country's infrastructure and the widespread disruption of public facilities and services,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on emergency assistance to Somalia, 7/ and the statement made before the Second Committee of the General Assembly on 31 October 1991 by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship on the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa, 8/

"Deeply appreciative of the humanitarian assistance rendered by a number of Member States to ameliorate the hardship and suffering of the affected population,

"Noting that many areas and regions are safe and accessible enough to allow immediate and urgent humanitarian assistance to be provided to all of the affected population,

"Noting with great satisfaction the humanitarian efforts being deployed by the various entities of the United Nations system and by national and international non-governmental organizations,

"1. Expresses its gratitude to the Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have responded to the appeals of the Secretary-General and others by extending emergency assistance to Somalia;

"2. "Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for measures taken to mobilize emergency assistance to the affected population in Somalia;

7/ A/46/457.

8/ See A/C.2/46/SR.26.

"3. Appeals to all States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to extend emergency assistance to Somalia, taking into account the statement on the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa; 8/

"4. Urges the pertinent specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Food Programme, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and United Nations Environment Programme, to resume their assistance programmes in their respective fields of competence on the most urgent basis in order to alleviate the suffering of all the affected population in accessible areas;

"5. Appeals to all parties concerned to engage in a national reconciliation process also with a view to facilitating the relief and rehabilitation efforts;

"6. Calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize international humanitarian assistance to Somalia;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation prevailing in Somalia, to take all necessary measures for the implementation of the present resolution, to apprise the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1992 of the progress made and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session."

38. At its 55th meeting, on 4 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.45/Rev.1) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.45, joined by China, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Oman, Togo and the United Arab Emirates.

39. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

40. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/45/Rev.1 without a vote (see para 56, draft resolution VII).

41. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Somalia made a statement.

8. Draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.46

42. At the 41st meeting, on 13 November, the representative of the Philippines, also on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, New

Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.46) entitled "Emergency aid to the Philippines". Subsequently, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Cuba, Ethiopia, Hondorus, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Samoa, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Venezuela and Yemen, joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

43. At the 51st meeting, on 26 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Bozorgmehr Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), read out the following revisions which had been agreed upon during informal consultations:

(a) The title of the draft resolution was revised to read "Emergency assistance to the Philippines";

(b) In operative paragraph 1, the word "aid" was replaced by "assistance".

44. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

45. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.46, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 56, draft resolution VIII).

46. After the Committee adopted the draft resolution, the representative of the Philippines made a statement.

9. Draft resolutions A/C.2/46/L.48/Rev.1 and 2

47. At the 50th meeting, on 21 November, the representative of Jordan, also on behalf of Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Oman, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Suriname, Uganda and Yemen, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.48/Rev.1) entitled "Emergency assistance to the Sudan and Operation Lifeline Sudan", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 43/8 of 18 October 1988, 43/52 of 6 December 1988, 44/12 of 24 October 1989 and 45/226 of 21 December 1990, on assistance to the Sudan,

"Noting with deep concern the continuing negative impact of persistent natural disasters and armed conflict in the Sudan, which have resulted in the destruction of the socio-economic infrastructure of that country and in large numbers of displaced persons, as well as the expected serious consequences of the most recent drought - namely, crop failures and food shortages,

"Recognizing that the Sudan continues to require, as a complement to its own efforts, strong and continued international solidarity and humanitarian support to meet the urgent requirements for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction,

"Noting that the food and non-food requirements of emergency assistance to the Sudan are spelt out in the Consolidated Inter-agency Appeal for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa, issued in September 1991,

"1. Expresses its deep gratitude and appreciation to the States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that are providing assistance to the Government and the people of the Sudan in their relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, in the context of the Sudan Emergency Operation and Operation Lifeline Sudan;

"2. Expresses its full appreciation to the Secretary-General and the organizations of the United Nations system for the successful coordination of and effective resource mobilization and support for the Sudan Emergency Operation and Operation Lifeline Sudan;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Government of the Sudan, to continue to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system to help the Sudan in its emergency, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes, to mobilize resources for the implementation of those programmes and to keep the international community informed of the needs of that country;

"4. Calls upon donor countries to contribute generously to the relief and rehabilitation requirements of displaced persons;

"5. Further calls upon donor countries to respond generously to the appeal made in the Consolidated Inter-agency Appeal for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa;

"6. Urges all parties involved to offer all feasible assistance, including the movement of relief supplies and personnel, to guarantee maximum success of the Sudan Emergency Operation in all parts of the country;

"7. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on emergency assistance to the Sudan and Operation Lifelife Sudan, 9/ and requests him to continue to assess the progress of evolution of the emergency situation and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, on all matters connected with the implementation of emergency and relief operations in the Sudan and to offer briefings in the appropriate forums during the intervening period."

9/ A/46/452.

48. At its 55th meeting, on 4 December, the Committee had before it a further revision of the draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.48/Rev.2) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.48/Rev.1, joined by Egypt, Mali and Togo. Subsequently, Mauritania joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

49. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

50. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/48/Rev.2 without a vote (see para. 56, draft resolution IX).

10. Draft resolutions A/C.2/46/L.94 and Rev.1

51. At the 54th meeting, on 3 December, the representative of Yemen, also on behalf of Algeria and Jordan, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.94), entitled "Emergency assistance to Yemen", which read as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "Concerned about the earthquake which struck Yemen on 22 November 1991, and also about the cyclone of 25 November 1991,
>
> "Expressing grave anxiety over the serious consequences of these natural disasters and, above all, over the plight of the thousands of persons rendered homeless, in addition to the material damage caused, despite the efforts undertaken at the national level,
>
> "Calls upon Member States, the organizations of the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to extend emergency assistance to Yemen to enable it to deal with these disasters."

52. At its 56th meeting, on 6 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/46/L.94/Rev.1) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.94.

53. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

54. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/46/94/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 56, draft resolution X).

55. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Yemen made a statement.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

56. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/1 of 7 October 1987, 43/24 of 15 November 1988, 44/10 of 23 October 1989 and 45/15 of 20 November 1990,

Recalling in particular its resolutions 42/204 of 11 December 1987, 42/231 of 12 May 1988, 43/210 of 20 December 1988, 44/182 of 19 December 1989 and 45/231 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling the importance of the efforts made by the Secretary-General with respect to the situation in Central America and the continuous involvement of the United Nations in economic cooperation in the region,

Particularly interested in continuing to address the emergency situation in Central America, and alarmed at the gravity of the economic and social crisis that continues to affect the region,

Recognizing the work being done by the United Nations Development Programme in discharging the responsibilities entrusted to it for the coordination of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, 10/

Recognizing that the Republic of Panama has participated continuously in all of the intraregional coordination and decision-making mechanisms of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, and that the Central American Presidents, in the Declaration of San Salvador of 17 July 1991, 11/ welcomed the decision by the Government of Panama to participate fully and actively in the process of integration in Central America,

Reaffirming its conviction that peace, development and democracy are inseparable,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, 12/ describing the status of implementation of the Special Plan;

2. Decides to approve the inclusion of the Republic of Panama as a full and formal participant in the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America;

10/ A/42/949, annex.

11/ A/45/1039-S/22828, annex.

12/ A/46/458.

3. Welcomes decision 91/3 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on 12 February 1991, 13/ and Council decision 91/54 of 20 September 1991, 14/ earmarking $US 20 million from Special Programme Resources for the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America during the fifth programming cycle;

4. Again urges all States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and regional and subregional organs and institutions to continue participating actively in and to take steps for the implementation of activities in support of the goals and objectives of the Special Plan, bearing in mind the difficult socio-economic situation facing the Central American countries, and to support projects presented by those countries under the mechanisms of the Special Plan;

5. Stresses the urgent need for the international community to increase its technical assistance to the Central American countries and to provide them with adequate additional financial resources on soft and favourable terms, with a view to effectively promoting the development and economic growth of the region;

6. Welcomes the Joint Political Declaration and the Joint Economic Communiqué issued by the Ministerial Conference on Political Dialogue and Economic Cooperation between the member States of the European Community and the Central American States, including Panama, and the member States of the Group of Cooperating Countries (Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela), held at Managua on 18 and 19 March 1991, in which they reaffirmed their commitment to continue to participate in the revitalization and economic and social development of the region;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the Special Plan;

8. Decides to examine and evaluate its implementation of the Special Plan at its forty-eighth session.

13/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 13 (E/1991/34).

14/ E/1991/L.27/Add.1.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Special economic assistance to Chad

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/223 of 21 December 1990 and its previous resolutions on assistance in the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of Chad and on special economic assistance to that country,

Recalling the round table on assistance to Chad, convened by the United Nations Development Programme at Geneva on 4 and 5 December 1985 in accordance with the arrangements agreed upon at the International Conference on Assistance to Chad, held in November 1982,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on special economic assistance to Chad 15/ dealing with, inter alia, the status of assistance provided for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country and the progress made in organizing and executing the programme of assistance for that country,

Considering that the effects of war and recent natural calamities and disasters are compromising all the reconstruction and development efforts of the Government of Chad,

Noting with satisfaction that the third Round-table Conference of Donors to Chad, convened by the Government of Chad in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, was held at Geneva on 19 and 20 June 1990 and that a development orientation plan was submitted to donors on that occasion by the Government of Chad,

Recalling the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990, 16/ and the mutual commitments entered into on that occasion,

Noting also with satisfaction that the round table on education, training and employment was convened by the Government of Chad, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, in November 1990,

Recalling in addition that the sectoral round tables on technical cooperation, promotion of the private sector, health and social affairs, environment and desertification control, urban development and the advancement of women will be organized in 1992 by the Government of Chad in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme,

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15/ A/46/316.

16/ See A/CONF.147/Misc.9.

Further recalling that an emergency plan on the restructuring of the army and the administration, and the return of former military personnel to productive life, will be submitted to a "conference of friends of Chad" held in Paris in 1991,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the States and organizations that have responded and are continuing to respond favourably to the appeals of the Government of Chad and of the Secretary-General by furnishing assistance to Chad;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts to make the international community aware of the difficulties of Chad and to mobilize assistance for that country;

3. Renews the request made to all States, competent United Nations organizations and programmes and international economic and financial institutions to continue to contribute to the rehabilitation and development of Chad;

4. Expresses the wish that future round tables on Chad be held within the framework of the intensified follow-up decided on at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to assess, in close collaboration with the humanitarian agencies concerned, the humanitarian needs, particularly in the areas of health and food, of the displaced populations;

6. Invites all States and competent United Nations organizations and programmes to participate actively in the "conference of friends of Chad" held in Paris in 1991 and in the different round tables to be held in N'Djamena in 1992;

7. Calls upon the Secretary-General to keep the situation in Chad under review and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Special assistance to the front-line States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/224 of 21 December 1990,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on special assistance to front-line States and other bordering States, 17/

17/ A/46/369.

Reaffirming the provisions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, contained in the annex to its resolution S-16/1 of 14 December 1989, in particular paragraph 9 (e) thereof, in which the States Members of the United Nations decided to render all possible assistance to the front-line and neighbouring States to enable them to rebuild their economies, which have been adversely affected by South Africa's past acts of aggression and destabilization,

Aware that the existence of the apartheid system in South Africa has aggravated economic and social problems confronting the front-line States and other neighbouring States,

Recognizing the positive developments in South Africa, including prospects for the start of negotiations on a non-racial democratic constitution,

Conscious of the urgent need and responsibility of the international community to address the problems affecting the region,

Mindful of Security Council resolutions 568 (1985) of 21 June 1985, 571 (1985) of 20 September 1985 and 581 (1986) of 13 February 1986, in which the Council, inter alia, requested the international community to render assistance to the front-line States and other neighbouring States,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts regarding assistance to the front-line States and other neighbouring States;

2. Notes with appreciation the assistance being rendered to the front-line States by donor countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

3. Expresses its deep concern about the continuing adverse effects of past acts of aggression and destabilization;

4. Strongly urges the international community to continue to provide in a timely and effective manner the financial, material and technical assistance necessary to enhance the individual and collective capacity of the front-line States and other neighbouring States to cope with the effects cited above;

5. Welcomes the signing of the National Peace Accord on 14 September 1991 in South Africa, the effective implementation of which would strengthen prospects for peace in South Africa;

6. Requests the Secretary-General and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to respond to such requests for assistance as might be forthcoming from individual States or the appropriate subregional organizations, and further urges all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to respond favourably to such requests;

7. Appeals to all States and appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the national and collective emergency programmes prepared by the front-line States and other neighbouring States to overcome their critical humanitarian problems, taking into account the special circumstances of the most affected countries;

8. Appeals to the international community to extend appropriate assistance to the front-line States and other neighbouring States to enable them to advance the process of regional economic integration, including the eventual participation of a non-racial democratic South Africa;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/225 of 21 December 1990 and its previous resolutions on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/61 of 26 July 1991 and other relevant resolutions and decisions previously adopted by the Council,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General 18/ and of the statement made before the Second Committee of the General Assembly on 31 October 1991 by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, in his capacity as coordinator of system-wide assistance to Lebanon, 19/

Acknowledging the efforts of the international community, and in particular those of the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon and of Mr. Bettino Craxi in his capacity as special adviser to the Secretary-General, towards the reconstruction and development of Lebanon,

Noting with deep concern the grave economic situation in Lebanon caused by the tragic events of the last sixteen years, and in particular the severe destruction of its infrastructure and the near collapse of basic services,

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18/ A/46/557 and Add.1.

19/ See A/C.2/46/SR.26.

Reaffirming the urgent need to initiate international action to assist the Government of Lebanon in rebuilding the country and restoring its human and technical capacities,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report and for his efforts to mobilize assistance to Lebanon;

2. Commends the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services for his coordination of system-wide assistance to Lebanon;

3. Calls upon Member States and international and regional organizations to provide financial and technical assistance to Lebanon and to give it priority in their reconstruction assistance programmes, whenever possible;

4. Calls upon all organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to expand their assistance in response to the pressing needs of Lebanon and to take necessary steps to ensure that their offices in Beirut are adequately staffed at the senior level;

5. Invites the Secretary-General:

(a) To intensify his efforts to mobilize all possible assistance to Lebanon;

(b) To consider favourably the nomination of a resident coordinator in Beirut to coordinate all United Nations programmes of assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon;

(c) To report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

Special assistance to Yemen

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/193 and 45/222 of 21 December 1990, Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/62 of 26 July 1991 and decisions 91/19 and 91/20 of 25 June 1991 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, 20/

20/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 13 (E/1991/34), annex I.

Noting the return of approximately one million Yemeni expatriates to their country as result of the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, in addition to the flows of tens of thousands of refugees and returnees from the Horn of Africa because of the recent developments in that region,

Deeply concerned at the grave economic and social consequences of the considerable flows of returnees, taking place at a time when Yemen is afflicted by stringent economic crises,

1. Calls upon States, United Nations organizations, governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations and financial institutions to extend their special assistance to Yemen to enable that country to deal with the effects of the flows of refugees and returnees;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to assist in mobilizing resources and to prepare a comprehensive programme to assist Yemen in finding a solution to the serious situation created by these flows;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/228 of 21 December 1990 and its previous relevant resolutions on economic assistance to Djibouti,

Recalling also the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990, 16/ as well as the mutual commitments undertaken on that occasion and the importance to be attached to the follow-up to that Conference,

Deeply concerned about the extensive damage and devastation in Djibouti caused by the unprecedented torrential rains and floods in April 1989,

Noting with concern the destruction of thousands of dwellings, particularly in working-class areas, and the damage to major sectors of the national infrastructure, particularly the road network, the water supply, health centres and hospitals, educational establishments and other public services,

Considering the severe damage to the scarce agricultural resources of Djibouti, including the destruction of its livestock,

Noting that the economic and social development efforts of Djibouti, which is included in the list of least developed countries, are thwarted by the negative consequences of the torrential rains and floods that periodically devastate that vulnerable country, and that the implementation of reconstruction and development programmes requires the deployment of considerable resources, which exceed the real capacities of the country,

Noting also that the harsh climate and the chronic dryness preclude any agricultural activity of scale and that the persistent effects of a cyclical drought have devastating consequences for the already precarious economic and social development of Djibouti,

Noting with concern that the situation in Djibouti has been adversely affected by recent events in the Horn of Africa, and noting the recent influx of over 95,000 persons displaced from their countries, which has placed serious strains on the fragile economic, social and administrative infrastructure of the country,

Noting the extremely critical economic situation of Djibouti, resulting from its geographical position and from the number of priority development projects that have been suspended in the light of the new critical international situation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, 15/

Noting with gratitude the support provided to emergency relief operations during the floods in 1989 by various countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

1. Declares its solidarity with the Government and people of Djibouti in the face of the devastating consequences of the torrential rains and floods and the new economic realities of Djibouti, bearing in mind, inter alia, the new critical situation in the Horn of Africa;

2. Endorses the evaluations and the recommendations of the various missions dispatched to Djibouti, which are mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General; 15/

3. Calls anew upon the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system and in close collaboration with the Government authorities, to carry out a re-evaluation of the requirements of Djibouti, in the light of its new and pressing needs, with a view to drawing up not only an urgent programme of rehabilitation and reconstruction, but also a sustained and suitable long-term development programme;

4. Also calls upon all States, all regional and interregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other intergovernmental agencies, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United

Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank, to provide Djibouti with substantial and appropriate assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, to enable it to cope with its special economic difficulties;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the resources necessary for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Djibouti;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a study of the economic situation of Djibouti and of the progress made in the organization and implementation of the new special programme of economic assistance for that country, in time for the question to be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VII

Emergency assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/206 of 20 December 1988, 44/178 of 19 December 1989 and 45/229 of 21 December 1990 and the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council on emergency assistance to Somalia,

Recalling also the appeal for urgent humanitarian assistance for Somalia and other countries in Africa made by the Secretary-General at the twenty-seventh ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held at Abuja from 3 to 5 June 1991,

Noting with satisfaction the measures taken by the Secretary-General to mobilize international assistance to Somalia,

Deeply concerned at the massive displacement of the population in the affected regions of Somalia, the extensive damage and destruction of villages, towns and cities, the heavy damage inflicted by the civil conflict on the country's infrastructure and the widespread disruption of public facilities and services,

Stressing the critical need to bring the civil war to an end expeditiously and as soon as possible through the involvement of all parties,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on emergency assistance to Somalia, 21/ and the statement made before the Second Committee of the General Assembly on 31 October 1991 by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship on the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa, 19/

Deeply appreciative of the humanitarian assistance rendered by a number of Member States to alleviate the hardship and suffering of the affected population,

Noting that many areas and regions are safe and accessible enough to allow immediate and urgent humanitarian assistance to be provided to all of the affected population,

Noting with great satisfaction the humanitarian efforts being deployed by the various entities of the United Nations system and by national and international non-governmental organizations,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have responded to the appeals of the Secretary-General and others by extending emergency assistance to Somalia;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the measures taken to mobilize emergency assistance to the affected population in Somalia;

3. Appeals to all States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to extend emergency assistance to Somalia, taking into account the statement made before the Second Committee of the General Assembly on 31 October 1991 by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship on the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa; 19/

4. Urges the concerned specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the United Nations Environment Programme, to resume their assistance programmes in their respective fields of competence on the most urgent basis in order to alleviate the suffering of all the affected population in accessible areas;

21/ A/46/457.

5. Appeals to all parties concerned to terminate hostilities and to engage in a national reconciliation process which will lead to the re-establishment of peace, order and stability and also facilitate the relief and rehabilitation efforts;

6. Calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize international humanitarian assistance for Somalia;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation prevailing in Somalia, to take all necessary measures for the implementation of the present resolution, to apprise the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1992 of the progress made and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII

Emergency assistance to the Philippines

The General Assembly,

Noting with concern the great loss of life and property caused by the most recent disasters in the Philippines, namely, an earthquake, a volcanic eruption, typhoons, floods and a massive mudflow,

Noting further decision 91/22 of 25 June 1991 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on emergency aid to the Philippines, 20/

Acknowledging that the earnest efforts made by the Government of the Philippines to achieve economic growth and development have been hampered by those calamities,

1. Commends the organs and organizations of the United Nations system for their prompt action in giving emergency assistance to the Philippines;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, within his mandate, to further assist to the maximum extent possible the rehabilitation efforts of the Philippines;

3. Requests all States and international organizations to extend further support to the Philippines in ways that would alleviate, for the duration of the emergency and the ensuing rehabilitation process, the economic and financial burden borne by the Philippine people.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IX

Emergency assistance to the Sudan and
Operation Lifeline Sudan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/8 of 18 October 1988, 43/52 of 6 December 1988, 44/12 of 24 October 1989 and 45/226 of 21 December 1990 on assistance to the Sudan,

Noting with deep concern the continuing negative impact of persistent natural disasters and armed conflict in the Sudan, which have resulted in the destruction of the socio-economic infrastructure of that country and in large numbers of displaced persons, as well as the serious consequences of the most recent drought namely, crop failures and food shortages,

Recognizing that the Sudan continues to require, as a complement to its own efforts, strong and continued international solidarity and humanitarian support to meet the urgent requirements for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Noting that the food and non-food requirements of emergency assistance to the Sudan are spelt out in the Consolidated Inter-agency Appeal for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa, issued in September 1991,

1. Recognizes the importance of assuring safe access for personnel providing relief assistance to all in need;

2. Expresses its deep gratitude and appreciation to the States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that are providing assistance to the Government and the people of the Sudan in their relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the context of the Sudan Emergency Operation and Operation Lifeline Sudan;

3. Expresses its full appreciation to the Secretary-General and the organizations of the United Nations system for the successful coordination of and effective resource mobilization and support for the Sudan Emergency Operation and Operation Lifeline Sudan;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Government of the Sudan, to continue to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system to help the Sudan in its emergency, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes, to mobilize resources for the implementation of those programmes and to keep the international community informed of the needs of that country;

5. Calls upon the international community to contribute generously to the relief and rehabilitation requirements of displaced persons;

6. Also calls upon the international community to respond generously to the appeal made in the Consolidated Inter-agency Appeal for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa;

7. Urges all parties involved to offer all feasible assistance, including facilitating the movement of relief supplies and personnel, to guarantee maximum success of the Sudan Emergency Operation in all parts of the country;

8. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on emergency assistance to the Sudan and Operation Lifelife Sudan, 22/ and requests him to continue to assess the progress of the evolving emergency situation, and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on, and to apprise the Economic and Social Council of, all matters connected with the implementation of emergency and relief operations in the Sudan, and to offer briefings in the appropriate forums during the intervening period.

DRAFT RESOLUTION X

Emergency assistance to Yemen

The General Assembly,

Concerned that Yemen was struck by an earthquake on 22 November 1991, followed by a cyclone on 25 November 1991,

Expressing grave anxiety at the serious consequences of these natural disasters and, above all, the plight of thousands of persons and the damage caused to a great number of buildings and facilities, in addition to other material damage,

Appreciating the efforts undertaken at the national level,

Calls upon Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to extend emergency assistance to Yemen to enable it to deal with these disasters.

22/ A/46/452.